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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6415

January 26, 2004

Larry C. Johnson
2300 M Street, NW Suite 800
Washington DC 20037-1434

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am responding to your letter dated January 20 to the Speaker of the House which makes some very important points about the need for bipartisanship and an unambiguous message with respect to the leak of the name of an undercover CIA agent.

Former President Bush said in 1999, "... I can't think of anything that is more traitorous or more offensive to the decency that is the American way [than exposing the identity of undercover agents]." He's right.

As Ranking Member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, which has jurisdiction to act on a bipartisan basis, I am pressing for the following:

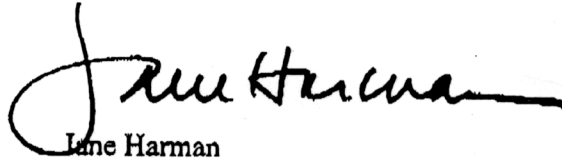
1. Expedited processing and completion of the investigation underway by the Justice Department. I have sought assurances in meetings with the lead investigators that ample resources and priority are being given to this effort and I will continue to carefully monitor its progress.
2. Prompt and effective steps to mitigate the damage caused by this leak, including full protection as necessary by the CIA for the agent involved. We have been assured this is happening.
3. A damage assessment by the CIA. This is underway but must await completion of the investigation so as not to taint the evidence.
4. Engagement at the highest levels of the Administration – starting with the President – to condemn the leak and find the leaker. I believe more must be done here.

I share the frustration of some of my colleagues about the slow pace of the investigation. This week, the Committee will be considering a resolution of inquiry demanding that

information relevant to the leak be handed over the Congress. I hope that the Committee will use this opportunity to send a bipartisan signal to the men and women of the intelligence community that we recognize the seriousness of this issue and that such leaks will not be tolerated.

Again, thank you for your expression of concern about this matter and for your service to our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lane Harman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a long, sweeping underline.

Lane Harman
Ranking Democrat